

## Attachment 11

### Program Preferences

The Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Restoration Project will provide multiple benefits, including flood damage reduction, water quality improvements and ecosystem benefits. All these benefits are also part of the Statewide Priorities and are included under Integrated Flood Management and Protection of Surface and Ground Water Quality.

#### **Flood Damage Reduction**

This project will construct a portion of an overflow bypass culvert to improve flood flow conveyance. The existing channel, known as the “oxbow”, will convey lower discharges, while the culvert will convey higher flows during large storm events. The increased capacity will improve flood protection along the creek from an estimated 8-year event to a 20-year event. Mission Creek runs through the urbanized downtown area of the City of Santa Barbara, these improvements will protect significant residential and commercial properties.

#### **Water Quality Improvements**

This project will provide an overflow bypass system that will allow low flows to continue through the existing Mission Creek “oxbow” channel. The existing channel has a soft bottom allowing for infiltration.

#### **Ecosystem benefits**

The proposed project will contribute to the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat. The existing conditions of the “oxbow” channel will be maintained allowing migration of southern steelhead and providing habitat for the tidewater goby and other fish, amphibians, benthic invertebrates and wading birds. The Southern California steelhead and tidewater goby are listed on the endangered species list.